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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/085,089	03/01/2002	Motoya Ito	3877-9	7212

7590 11/21/2002

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[REDACTED] EXAMINER

NGUYEN, HANH N

[REDACTED] ART UNIT [REDACTED] PAPER NUMBER

2834

DATE MAILED: 11/21/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/085,089	ITO ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Nguyen N Hanh	2834

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE _____ MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-7 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) 6 and 7 is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1,2 and 5 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) 3 and 4 is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 01 March 2002 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
 - a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 2.
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) _____.
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

1 Claims 1,2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Daikoku et al.

Regarding claim 1, Daikoku et al. disclose a commutator (6 in Fig. 1) mounted on a rotor of an electric rotary machine, the commutator comprising: $2n$ commutator segments (9 in Fig. 3), n being an integer; $2n$ segment bases (protrusion 17) formed by separating a metallic base plate (7 in Fig. 1), each segment base contacting each commutator segment, wherein: the $2n$ commutator segments are electrically insulated from one another (by means of projections 19, Col. 4, lines 10-15); the $2n$ commutator segments form n pairs of commutator segments, the commutator segments in each pair being positioned symmetrically with respect to an axis of the rotor (Fig. 11); and the commutator segments in each pair are electrically connected to each other through a connecting portion (14 in Fig. 5) formed integrally with the metallic base plate.

Regarding claim 2, Daikoku et al. also disclose a commutator wherein the $2n$ segment bases are insulated from one another by slits (Fig. 7) formed on the metallic base plate (by means of insulation member 13).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Daikoku et al. in view of Hotta et al.

Regarding claim 5, Hotta et al. show all limitations of the claimed invention except showing the commutator wherein the $2n$ commutator segments are made of carbon.

However, Hotta et al. disclose a commutator wherein commutator segment are made of carbon (Fig. 1b and Col. 3, lines 40-43) for the purpose of reducing cost (Col. 1, line 47-50)

Since Daikoku et al. and Hotta et al. are in the same field of endeavor, the purpose disclosed by Hotta et al. would have been recognized in the pertinent art of Daikoku.

It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having an ordinary skill in the art to modify Daikoku et al. by using carbon to form commutator segments as taught by Hotta et al. for the purpose of reducing cost.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 6 and 7 are allowed.
4. Claims 3 and 4 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

5. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: the record of prior art does not show a commutator mounted on a rotor comprising $2n$ commutator segments, n being an integer; $2n$ segment bases formed by separating a metallic base plate having a plurality of slits for forming connecting portions, each segment base contacting each commutator segment and the commutator segments in each pair are electrically connected to each other through a connecting portion formed integrally with the metallic base plate wherein the connecting portions are all depressed from the metallic base plate surface contacting the commutator segments by a distance exceeding a thickness of the metallic base plate.

Conclusion

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hanh N Nguyen whose telephone number is (703) 305-3466. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nestor Ramirez can be reached on (703) 308-1371. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 305-3431 for regular communications and (703) 305-3431 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1782.

HNN

November 13, 2002

Thomas M. Dougherty
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